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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/591,579	09/05/2006	Jean-Louis Ouvrier-Buffet	129090	3370
25944 7590 06/30/2008 OLIFF & BERRIDGE, PLC P.O. BOX 320850 ALEXANDRIA, VA 22320-4850				
EXAMINER				
SUNG, CHRISTINE				
ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER		
2884				
MAIL DATE		DELIVERY MODE		
06/30/2008		PAPER		

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/591,579

Applicant(s)

OUVRIER-BUFFET ET AL.

Examiner

CHRISTINE SUNG

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2884

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 05 September 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-3 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-3 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☒ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SG/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 0906
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless --

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claims 1-3 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Fraden (US Patent 5,054,936 A).

Regarding claim 1, Fraden discloses a method for production of a device for thermal detection of radiation comprising

at least one active microbolometer (Figure 6, element 26) and

at least one passive microbolometer (element 24),

each comprising

a suspended membrane (elements 24 and 26) performing the

function of radiation absorber, thermometer and electrical connection,

the active and passive microbolometers being formed simultaneously on a single support substrate (elements 24 and 26 are formed on element 21, substrate) and

a reflective screen being formed on the whole of the device, and then eliminated opposite the locations of the active microbolometers (column 6, line 64- column 8, line 6, the elements have a reflective or gold plated surface, only the passive microbolometer has a gold plated layer),

method characterized in that the membrane (element 24) comprising a thermometric element and a radiation-absorbing element (elements 24 and 26)

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performing the electrical connections, the passive microbolometer (element 24) is formed on the reflective screen (column 6, line 64- column 8, line 6) which comprises at least one metallic layer in contact with the absorbing element of the membrane.

Regarding claim 2, Fraden discloses a passive microbolometer, characterized in that the reflecting screen (column 6, line 64- column 8, line 6, gold plated layer) is arranged underneath the membrane (column 6, lines 35-40), in contact with the absorbing element (element 24) of the membrane.

Regarding claim 3, Fraden discloses that the thickness of the metallic layer is about 500 to 2000Å = 50 nm-200 nm (see column 3, lines 44-51, film thickness of 100 nm-100,000 nm).

Conclusion

3. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.
4. US 3453432- this reference discloses active and passive bolometers formed on the same substrate.
5. US 20070262407A1- this reference discloses an active and passive bolometer.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to CHRISTINE SUNG whose telephone number is (571)272-2448. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday- Friday 9-5 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David Porta can be reached on 571-272-2444. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Christine Sung/
Primary Examiner
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CS